



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 1715  
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-1715

February 5, 2007

Operations Division

SUBJECT: Maintenance Dredging, Chester River, Queen Annes County, Maryland

PUBLIC NOTICE NN-07-01

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to Sections 313 and 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 USC 1323 and 1344) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pending availability of funds the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Federal navigation channel at Chester River, Queen Annes County, Maryland.

The Baltimore District has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Queen Annes County to contribute funds for maintenance of the Chester River Federal Navigation Project. The proposed work consists of performing maintenance dredging of the Kent Narrows channel portion of the Chester River Federal Navigation Project, which is 7 feet deep, 75 feet wide and about 5,600 feet long (Map 1). Material will be removed to the project depth of 7 feet plus two-feet of allowable overdepth. Approximately 28,000 cubic yards of material consisting of clay, mud, sand, silt, shell and combinations thereof, are to be dredged using a hydraulic pipeline. The material will be placed behind existing offshore segmented breakwaters adjacent to the Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge (Map 2). The gaps in the breakwaters may be sealed using rock and biologs. After deposition, a wetland will be created by planting *Spartina alterniflora* and *S. patens*.

A review of data generated for preparation of the Environmental Assessment, including a preliminary 404(b)(1) evaluation, indicates that no significant environmental impacts are expected and that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation addressing the environmental issues of the dredging and placement operation is being prepared. The placement site has been previously used, therefore, the environmental documentation for this project is anticipated to be a Categorical Exclusion and a Record of Environmental Consideration that will be available upon request. The proposed maintenance dredging complies with and will be conducted in a manner consistent with the approved Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program. The proposed project also complies with the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended, and as such, will not have any adverse affect on essential fish habitat for federally managed species.

Maintenance of the project is being coordinated with the following Federal, State and local agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service; State of Maryland, Department of the Environment, Department of Natural Resources, and Maryland Historical Trust, and Queen Annes County.

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The decision whether to accomplish the work proposed in the public notice will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed work on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, aesthetics, fish and wildlife values, general environmental concerns, economics, historic values, navigation, energy needs, recreation, safety, water quality, food production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Designation of the proposed placement site for dredged material associated with this Federal project shall be made through the application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army. If these guidelines alone prohibit the designation of the proposed placement site, any potential impairment to the maintenance of navigation including any economic impact on navigation and anchorage which would result from the failure to use the placement site will also be considered.

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by the placement of this dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within 30 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested and who not being known to this office, do not receive a copy of this notice.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, has applied for Water Quality Certification from the State of Maryland. Any comments relating to water quality concerns can be forwarded to the Maryland Department of the Environment, Standards and Certification, 2500 Broening Highway, Baltimore, Maryland, 21224 within 30 days of the date of this notice. Questions regarding the content of this notice may be brought to the attention of Mr. Robert Blama of this office at (410) 962-6068.

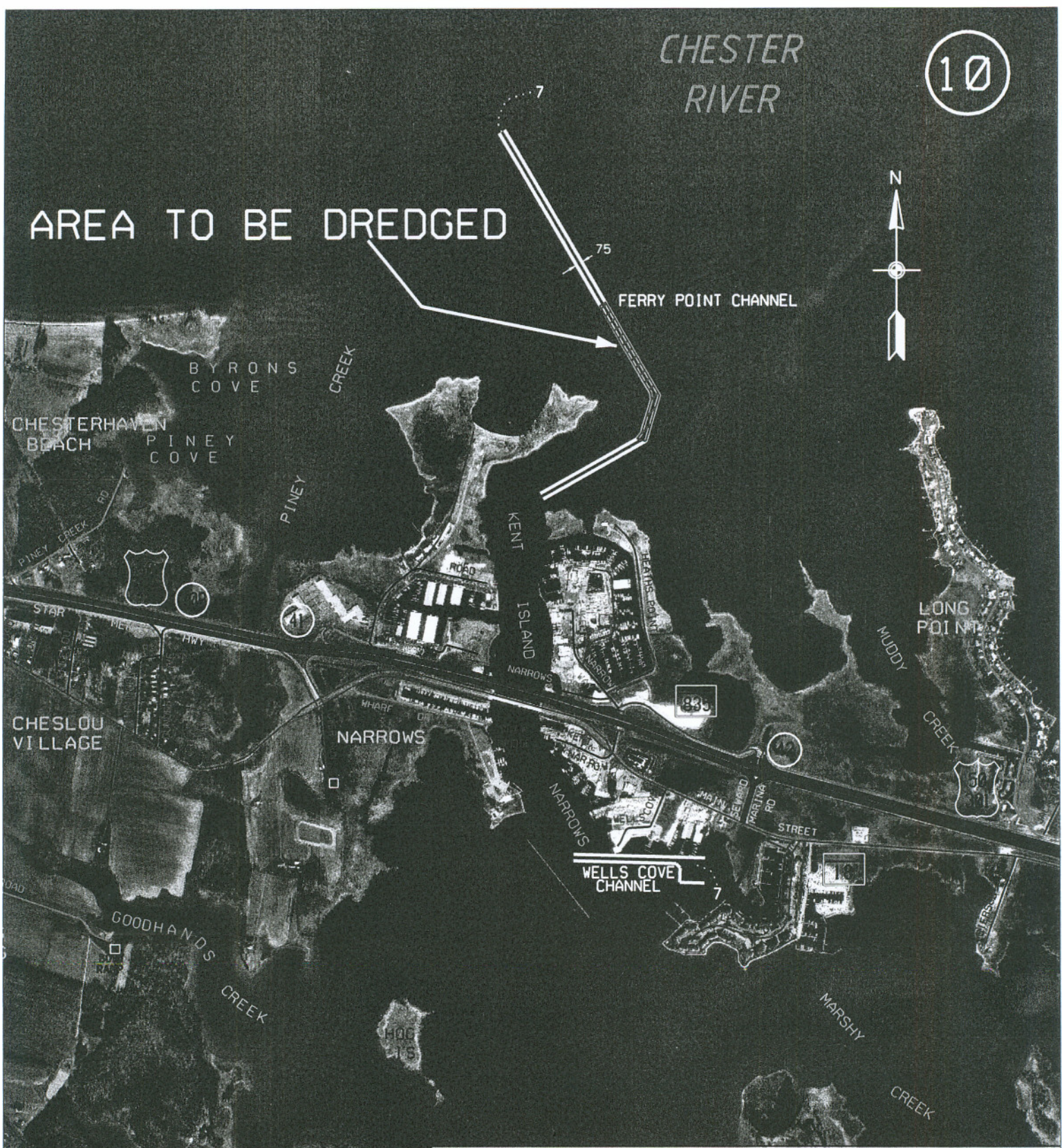


CHRISTINA E. CORREALE  
Chief, Operations Division

Enclosures



# AREA TO BE DREDGED



## CHESTER RIVER, MD.

7 INDICATES PROJECT DEPTH

SOUNDINGS ARE IN FEET  
VERTICAL DATUM PLANE IS M.L.L.W.

